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CX028

THROUGH : The Ambassador/DCM
POL - Mr. John J. Youle

January 4, 1979

POL - David G. Shaw

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Uruguayans "Disappeared" in Argentina

REF: Buenos Aires 10077

The information in para. 6 of the attached cable, on numbers of Uruguayans "disappeared" in Argentina, coincides closely with the information we have in POL. So do the timing and circumstance of such disappearances. This is not surprising, since we have come by our information largely from the same source: UNHCR/Buenos Aires, in the person of Herbert Schape.

We have confirmed a few cases of such disappearances directly from walk-ins, and some of these involve persons who have subsequently reappeared in Uruguayan prisons. We have also heard independently of at least one case of flight to Brazil by someone in conditional liberty status, and this may relate to the same case.

The large group, some of whom were freed while others had to remain confined, sounds very like the GOU's reported arrangements with members of the GAU group picked up in Buenos Aires.

✓ The comment in para. 5 about the Uruguayan police having begun detaining PSU and PCU members earlier in 1978 is misleading. Actually, the big roundup of non-Tupamaro "subversives" began in 1975-76 and coincides in time with the first wave of Uruguayan disappearances in Buenos Aires. What the drafter is referring to here is undoubtedly the roundup, last August, of 50-odd persons affiliated to the PC and other far-left organizations. We haven't heard anything specific up to now about nervousness among present or former Socialists and Communists, but, given present GOU attitudes, I can forgive their nervousness.

POL:DGShaw:cp
X 320, 1-4-79

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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